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HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT 1068

## MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

We may have to study the coming resurrection again. Here's why. MICHAEL is going to help produce the resurrection. We had better learn more.

*Daniel 12:1-2, And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

*2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

The Great Prince MICHAEL shall have an important role to play in bringing forth the resurrection of the dead.

MICHAEL and his angels have already had an important part to play in casting the devil (Satan) out of heaven.

*Revelation 12:7-10, And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

*8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

*9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

*10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

The Archangel MICHAEL cast Satan out of heaven in a war. When?

*Luke 10:17-18, And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us*

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*through thy name. 18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*

JESUS watched as MICHAEL cast Satan out of heaven. For this reason I have never been able to agree with some professors who claim that MICHAEL is JESUS in the Old Testament. There are two entities in this story, MICHAEL and JESUS.

The war in heaven started when JESUS' disciples bound demons and devils and exorcised them from the minds of the people. Then JESUS watched "*Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*"

MICHAEL fought Satan in heaven and gave him the K.O. punch that knocked Satan into the ropes and out of the ring, while the disciples threw the demons out of the minds of the people on earth. What a fight!

In the soon coming resurrection, at the time of great trouble, MICHAEL shall deliver the live people and resurrect the spirits of the dead.

Some people think that JESUS is going to come back and do all that work and fighting. That idea does not agree with: *Acts 3:21, Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

JESUS is going to stay in heaven until everything gets straightened up. When JESUS comes back, it will be to receive the kingdom - - not bring the kingdom.

*John 17:4, I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Q. Why do we send Christmas gifts to each other?

A. There are at least two stories in the Bible that we model to develop our CHRISTMAS GIFT ideas. The first is fairly well known. The kings of the orient brought gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense to JESUS. Many Bible teachers point to the fact that myrrh and frankincense prophetically pointed to the death and resurrection of JESUS. I think that the gold was to finance the trip to Egypt for JESUS, Mary, and Joseph.

Q. But, how do we follow that pattern?

A. We send gifts one to another in the same spirit as the wise men who brought gifts to JESUS. We can't give a birthday present to JESUS because He is in heaven. So we send Christmas gifts to the Spirit of Christ (anointing) that dwells in each of us.

Q. If I received a fine camera for Christmas I think it would satisfy my soul, not my spirit.

A. No doubt. But the motive of the gift should be to provide you with things that can be used for the Kingdom of God. In the case of the camera, you could use it to document a "before and after" series of pictures of a healing.

The feast of Purim establishes the other pattern for giving gifts. After the victory of the Jews over their enemies, Queen Esther said that the feast of Purim was to be a day of joy and gladness, a day of sending portions to each other and gifts to the poor. Esther 9.

Q. Gifts to the poor? Is that why we drop money into the Salvation Army kettles at Christmas time?

A. Yes. See Gal. 2:10, Rom. 15:25.

Q. I have heard that N.T. Christians are not under the law of giving a tithe. Are they?

A. No. But we are under the spirit of the law of the tithe.

1.) We are admonished to lay up on the first day of the week (Sunday) collections (of money) for the poor. See 1 Cor. 16:1.

2.) The pattern of giving gifts to support the ministry is also established. See Phil. 4:14-17.

3.) A record of a person's gift is kept in his account in heaven. *Philippians 4:17, Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

We should study the law of the O.T. tithe so that we can recognize the spirit of the N.T. law we are now under. See Lev. 27:30-33, Num. 18:21-32.

Q. Should I give gifts in addition to my tithe?

A. The elders of your church have the authority to decide if gifts are in addition to your tithe or if gifts are to be regarded as a part. (See Rom. 14) When I was a minister in the Assembly of God, the tithe was an obligation of membership. If you didn't tithe you could not be a member.

Q. How did you figure a tithe? 10% of a gross salary? Or 10% of the net salary, after taxes, medical deductions, and such?

A. Many pastors argue for 10% of the gross. Most board member argue for 10% of the net. Each local church settled the argument as best suited the local situation.

Q. But I have heard you give Bible lessons which indicate neither idea is right. What about that?

A. You're right. Neither is right as far as Bible study is concerned. The Bible divides the tithe into seven parts. It further separates the tithe of the increase of the field (fruit, See Lev. 27:30-33) from the tithe of the increase of the flock (animals, See 2 Chron. 31:6).

The tithe of the first and second years and the fourth and fifth years are to go to the "storehouse."  
The tithe of the third and sixth years are to be spent at home for charity. See Deut. 26:12

There is no tithe for the seventh year because the fields are not to be planted in the seventh year; hence no tithe. I believe that a person who receives a regular wage or salary is best advised to apply the spirit of the tithe law like the following:

He/she tithes on his/her net (not gross) pay because nearly all the deductions from his/her pay check were for functions provided by the temple in the O.T. Since the N.T. church does not provide fire, police, legal, protection, etc., it follows that the cost of those

functions should be deducted from the gross salary. It does not seem right to pay for those functions twice, once in a tithe and secondly in government taxes.

Let's say a person receives \$1000 per month. The old church formula for the tithe is \$100. But, the person's check was for \$700 because the feds, the state, the county, the city, and the insurance all combined to take \$300 from it, leaving \$700. The new church formula says the tithe is \$70. (10% Of \$700)

The O.T. law of the tithe said that 4/7 of the tithe goes to church (temple) ministry. (1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th year's tithe.) 1/7 of \$70 is \$10. So \$40 (4 x \$10) goes to the church (temple).

The O.T. law of the tithe said that 2/7 goes to charitable works at home. (3rd, and 6th year's tithe.) \$20 to the Salvation Army or something like that.

The last 1/7 of the tithe is to be used at home for spiritual books, records, tapes, music, trips, etc. because it is to be used to replenish, restore, to rebuild home functions and relationships. (The 7th year the land was to rest.) That would be \$10 to spend in the Christian bookstore or something like that.

That is the correct N.T. spirit of the O.T. tithe law.

Q. What does the Bible mean when it says to take your tithe to the "storehouse?"

A. In the O.T. the "storehouse" is where you went to buy your grain, food, etc. It was like going to the grocery. Jews were fed from the "storehouse."

Now, you get your "spiritual food" from the "storehouse." In the same spirit, you should pay where you are "spiritually fed." See Mal. 3:10.

Q. Is it O.K. for me to give my tithe to my church and denomination even though I'm not getting much "spiritual food" from them?

A. No. The spirit of the N.T. tithe indicates that you give your tithe to the place where you get your "spiritual food" - - not necessarily where your membership is. You don't shop at Giant Foods and go across the street to pay your food bill at Big Bear. Pay where you shop.

Q. Is there a difference between a tithe, a gift, and an offering?

A. Yes. They are all different and they all add to each other to determine the total amount an O.T. Jew was to give back to God.

The "tithe" is 10% of the increase of a farmer's grain. The "gift" is more complicated, and includes "meat offerings." See Num. 6:15-17.

The "offering" is even more complicated, and includes "sin offerings," "burnt offerings," "gold, silver and brass offerings," "heave offerings," "drink offerings," etc.

Q. When added up how much did an O.T. Jew give back to God?

A. Who knows? That's because each person's situation was so very much different from the next person's.

Q. What does 10% of the increase mean?

A. If a Jew harvested 100 bags of grain his tithe was not 10 bags. First he deducted the 20 bags he planted as seed. The increase was 80 bags, not 100 bags. The tithe was 8 bags, not 10.

Q. How does the U.S. government enter into our present church tithes, gifts, and offerings?

A. Until 1986 a Christian could deduct his tithes, gifts, and offerings from his income before figuring his income tax. Then in 1986 the U.S. Congress changed the law and underhandedly removed the tithe deduction for most Christians. They moved the charitable gift deduction line from the 1040 to the Schedule A. Our Congress covertly took the tithe tax exemption away from 9 out of 10 Christians.

Q. How can that little move on the tax forms make such a giant change in the tax bills for Christians?

A. Only one person out of 10 files a Schedule A. That means 9 out of 10 families do not have anywhere to deduct their tithes from their income anymore.

Q. Why don't they fill out a Schedule A to get their tax deduction?

A. The Schedule A demands that the deductions total 30% before it equals a standard deduction. So a thither would have to come up with another 20% in deductions, and a regular worker can't do that. The

only people who can do that are rich people with property, and/or a business, and/or investments.

Q. That's too complicated. I'll still take my canceled tithe checks to my tax accountant to get my regular deduction.

A. Take them if you want to, but they haven't done you any good since 1986 when your government secretly took away your deduction.

Q. Is it true that the I.R.S. does not view the meaning of the word "gift" as our Bible uses "gift?"

A. Yes. The Bible uses the word "gift" to describe all sorts of payments rendered to God (or for the use of the church [temple]), or the pastors (levites), etc.

But the I.R.S. describes a "gift" as unmerited favor. A person who receives a "gift" owes no income tax on a "gift" because it is not earned income. That is described in the Internal Revue Code 102 (I.R.C. 102) Note: I.R.C. not I.R.S.

Q. What happens when I write "gift" on the memo line I give to a church or a preacher?

A. There is a big difference when a church or a pastor receives a gift. Now, only one person out of 10 can receive a tax deduction for their gift to a church. Now, Nine people out of ten do not get any tax benefit from their gift to a church. No one receives a tax benefit from their gift to a pastor - - except the pastor. He/she gets a great big tax benefit.

Q. Why does a pastor receive a "great big tax benefit" when he/she receives a "gift" check?

A. When a \$20 "gift" check goes to a church, the church pays no income tax and can use the full \$20 to pay its bills. But, if a pastor receives \$20 from a church he has to pay \$5 earned income tax to the I.R.S. He only gets to spend \$15 on his bills out of his \$20 pay. In that case the \$5 is lost as far as the Kingdom of God is concerned.

In comparison, when a \$20 check marked "Gift, I.R.C. 102" goes to a pastor, he/she pays no income tax because it is an I.R.C. 102 GIFT. So the \$20 check to the pastor is worth the full \$20 to the pastor if it is made out right. But, the pastor must keep perfect records of all his/her gifts.

Q. What do you mean, "made out right?"

A. A check to a church may have anything you want on the memo line. But, for 9 out of 10 givers, their check to a pastor should read, "Gift, I.R.C. 102" on the memo line, if it was truly a gift and it was not for services rendered. The note "Gift, I.R.C. 102" is a "buzz" word among auditors. It means, "Jump back, Jack. This person knows what he/she is doing." He/she wants to direct all of the \$20 to the Kingdom of God, not to the I.R.S. Now, most checks written to a little church lose \$5 out of every \$20.

Now, 9 out of 10 people should consider writing a "Gift, I.R.C. 102" check to the pastor, if no service was rendered.

If no service was rendered write "Gift, I.R.C. 102" on the memo line, nothing else. Use the pastor's name - not the name of the church.

Q. Is it O.K. to add "Thank you."

A. No. No. The I.R.S. will think that the pastor did something for you or else you would not have said "thank you." If you add "thank you" he/she will have to pay a \$5 earned income tax for your \$20 check.

Q. Can I at least add "We love you?"

A. No. No. No. The I.R.S. believes that you give love to receive love. They will conclude that he/she loved you first and you are sending love back. If you add "love or thanks or love gift or God bless or any normal Christian expression it will cost the Kingdom of God \$5 out of each \$20. That's \$25 out of \$100.

If no service was rendered write, "Gift, I.R.C. 102" on the memo line. Nothing else.

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS 1998

Peace, harmony, health, prosperity, and all the best to you and yours from all of us here in Harrisburg PA.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 1999

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This ministry does not exist apart from the prayers and gifts and/or tithes and/or offerings of our friends, students, and readers.

Please pray for us. We need it. Thank you.